



# National Volunteer Fire Council

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## FACT SHEET H.R. 4497

Implementation of Recommendations of the Interagency Committee on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety.

### Summary

In the fall of 1984, the major national fire protection organizations joined with the tobacco industry to support a federal study to determine if, and how, cigarettes might be made more fire safe. With that, the Cigarette Safety Act of 1984 became law.

In December 1987, the Interagency Committee on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety, which was created by the 1984 Act, reported to Congress that certain characteristics of cigarettes can be modified experimentally to reduce their ignition propensity.

In its report, the Committee made six recommendations. These recommendations included the development of a "validated test method" to measure reliably the propensity of cigarettes to ignite upholstered furniture and mattresses; the testing of smoke from modified cigarettes; data collection and analysis; and continuing research to improve the tracking of cigarette-related fires over time.

Within weeks, legislation was drafted, then refined, to implement the Interagency Committee's recommendations.

By April 1988, Reps. Frederick Boucher (D-VA) and Tom Bliley (R-VA) introduced H.R. 4497, which was then assigned to the Commerce and Energy Committee. Co-sponsors of the bill included Congressional Fire Services Caucus founder Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA).

The bill will be reintroduced in the 101st Congress.

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### Endorsements

Many fire service organizations have joined the National Volunteer Fire Council in endorsing the federal legislation and urging its prompt passage. Included are:

- o International Association of Fire Fighters (AFL-CIO)
- o International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- o California State Firemen's Association, Inc.
- o New York State Association of Fire Chiefs
- o Firemen's Association of the State of New York
- o Fire Districts Association of New York
- o Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas
- o Illinois Fire Inspectors Association
- o New Jersey Paid Chiefs Association
- o Keystone State Fire Chiefs Association (Pennsylvania)
- o Pennsylvania State Fire Fighters Association (AFL-CIO)
- o Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania
- o Firemen's Legislative Council of Pennsylvania
- o Pennsylvania State Fire Commissioner, Pennsylvania  
Emergency Management Agency
- o Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association
- o Oregon Fire Education Association
- o Oregon State Fire Marshal
- o Washington State Fire Fighters' Association, Inc.
- o Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association

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